THE BETTER CHOICE.

Too little do we gaze on nature's face-Too much have dwelt in colleges and

Where man pursues the miserable race Of wealth and mere book learning. The muse frowns On him whose footsteps o'er the breezy

downs Seldom have pressed; our need is solitude, For the harsh dissonance of the city

Those dreams of virtue, loveliness and good.

Which in the breast of youth, however stifled, brood.

Let us arise and shake away the dust Of brick and pavement from our flying

All former visions from remembrance thrust.

And even forget that once we trod the street. Up in the mountains haply we may

Those glorious fancies that still shun the, throng The rill's wild music, tremulous and

sweet. Will lend a softer cadence to our song. The cataract's curbless strength may

teach us to be strong. 'And flowers and perfumes and untainted

And forests green with dark cathedral giooms. And the fleet birds, whose mission is to bear

Nature's true music on their outspread plumes. And mossy banks and overhanging blooms

Of trailing honeysuckle-these shall teach · Our tongues to breathe the passion that consumes

The inmost spirit, and we shall learn a speech

Wide-general enough all human hearts to reach. Sports Afield.

THANKFUL TILDY.



and reduced the a "cottager" had

undertaken to close a path that had been free for a generation, and the old might have been.

hoss might 'a' missed that air fence." he argued, with the confidence of one 'a' slewed into the main road 'n' tramped on a young one, whereas, you bein' consequently!"

gest.

"Hey?" snarled disapproval, and the others | laid down behind the stone wall. seemed equally ready to question his me tew, can ye?" Hey?"

speaker put in. He had entered so wall, he see that one piece o' rock had quietly that the storekeeper jumped | knocked down the chimbly, 'n another place that the storekeeper found it | 'n' behold! she stuck her head out. safer to reserve for a toothless patriarch, but since the thing was done he anade the best of it.

'Aaron?" he inquired.

about her. It wuz her gin'ral disposicalled her."

Bascom place. Lived there till someawheres 'bout '60, 'n' then they moved out West, 'n' last I heard of 'em Sim found a gold mine 'n' they waz big as any toads in the puddle. I s'picion gold mines must lay on top o' the ground out in that country, Sim never would 'a' dug fer one-not in his right mind, he

. "Lazier 'n' Sam Hill, he wuz, al'avs plaunin' out ways to save work, 'n' lettin' things go while he figgered on ! em. Didn't hev no downright bad habits, ye know. Jest plain lazy wuz what ailed him. His part o' the place looked like Poorhouse Corner. Hers wuz different, mind ye, 'n' so was she. Never no hens roosted on her while she wuz inventin' a aig-gatherer, I bate

"You'd 'a' thought she'd worried about Sim's bein' so easy goin'; but ye can't tell nothin' about women-folks. For all she wuz so spry, nobody ever heerd her find fault. It wuz all t'other way. If he did somethin'-or didn't do somethin'-that stirred up a muss, she al'ays fished 'round till she found a blessin' in it.

· "I r'collect her proceedin's one time, 'n' I guess 't wuz the only time, that Sim did somethin' like work. 'Twixt one thing 'n' another, he kep' it up for nigh a fortnit. Fust it wuz to git rid of forced to relent, and, having lived in o' garden sass. Sim didn't have no state fair c'lection o' veg'tables when the woodchuck sot in, but putty soon they begun to look like the fag-end o' desolation. The critter wouldn't touch anything with p'ison in it. Sim tried him, faithful. Looked as though th'

only thing to do wuz to dig him out. "I d'know whether you ever started easier talked about than done. A good |-Il Papagallo.

smart woodchuck d' burrer to Chiny, REPORTS OF CHIEFS. If you could head him straight down. Sim followed this one's trail 'bout thirty foot, 'n' then he didn't 'pear to be 'any nearer the woodchuck's bedroom 'n' he wuz at first. When Sim quit diggin', 'count o' takin' a crick in his back, I f'r one didn't feel to blame him.

""T wuz jest about the time he quit that a story got 'round consarnin' old



THE OLD SETTLERS WHO MET AT THE STORE.

Cap'n Bascom. Some says it started with a shipmate o' his, that knowed certain, that the Cap'n brung home a increase of \$6,322,540 in the total circulagood deal o' money from his last cruise. | tion. He had money, wasn't no doubt o' that, but when he died the only vallybles without any clew to any more. But this 'ere story had it that the Cap'n had a belt full when he left Portland to come home, the last time, 'n' must 'a' with a capital stock of \$135,961,990. brought it to the island.

of his back, Sim he pupposed to do corporate existence was four. During the cacy of these two classes of vessels. HE storekeeper's some prof'table meditatin'. Didn't horse had compli- seem to him the Cap'n would 'a' hid mented his oats by his money in the house, f'r Aunt Polly running away. He | would hev found it (she was a master had scattered his hand for findin' out things that didn't load over several belong to her, Aunt Polly was). Over rods of highway, 'n' above that, Sim concluded the Cap'n wouldn't take it to the barn. That had wagon to kindling been burnt down since the Bascoms' wood; but he had time, anyhow; seemed 's if an old sailor also demolished a 'd ruther hev his belongin's outdoors. fence with which where the' was landmarks, as it ware, 'n' when Sim got it narrered down to this, he 'lowed he could spot the place.

"That wuz a big boulder, right anigh settlers who met at the store to talk it | the stone wall where Sim had been over were not so sympathetic as they a-diggin' for woodchuck. It weighed three ton, mebbe. No livin' man could "Aain't nothin' so bad, but it could | 'a' got under it to hide anythin! But be was, Isaac," asserted Cap'n Pomer- | Sim wouldn't let that stump him, a'ter oy, who was deaf and dogmatic. "The | he made up his mind. He dug round the aidges a little, 'n' found some angleworms 'n' saw-bugs, 'n' made a big who is seldom contradicted, "He might | hole down in the lower no theast corner o' the rock.

"'Tildy didn't say nothin' ag'in his selec'man, he's saved you 'n' Pilsbury | foolishness, Fact is, I cal'late, she didn't the job of havin' the fence took down, know the whole of it. Prob'ly Sim didn't tell her he wuz aimin' to oncover "That don't pay me for ten bushel o' | the univarse, their part of it, to find corn," the storekeeper ventured to sug- | buried treasures. I know he didn't give her no warnin' when he touched the thing off, f'r he told me so. She "Ten bushel o' corn!" the storekeeper | wuz in the butt'ry, gittin' ready to repeated. Then, as Cap'n Pomeroy churn, when he lighted his fuse and

"Well, sir! Sim done a good enough public spirit he hastened to add: "Oh, job, that time. That air boulder went down; I don't begredge the corn, not | into more 'n forty million pieces. Sim any to speak of. I ain't a-goin' to say | could hear 'em a-rippin' an' a-tearin' I'm glad I lost it, though; can't expect | for an hour, seemed to him, 'n' he didn't hardly dast to git up 'n' find out what he had done. When he did wipe the "Tildy Peters would hev," another dust out of his eyes 'n' peek over the

with a cut on her forehead 'n' the skim milk runnin' out of her hair, 'n' I guess "What's that about 'Tildy, Uncle fur a minute Sim thought he wuz goin' to git his come-uppance. But she wuz "Oh, the ain't no great of a story starin' every which way 'n' didn't seem to see him. Sim thought she wuz gone tion, 's ye might say, that made me looney. He wuz gittin' ready to ask speak up. 'Thankful 'Tildy,' everybody her, when all of a sudden she p'ints thus compelled to go into insolvency. him to a streak of somethin' that wuz "She 'n' her man lived over on the old | licketty-splittin' out o' sight.

"'Ain't that nice, Sim!' she says, 'You've broke up that old woodchuck, ain't ye?'

"No!" Uncle Aaron added crustily, a moment later (one of the small boys had asked a question and spoiled his climax). "No, consarn ye! Tae' wa'n't Free Press.

Millions in It.

A German who had vainly tried to make a fortune in many ways at last fell ill. But on what the doctor declared to be his deathbed an idea with millions | bond. in it struck him. He sent for a lawyer and dictated a will, in which he bequeathed vast sums of money to his wife, his family, and various charitable institutions. The lawyer, a notorious Comptroller a report. talker, spread the tidings, and great ances to think how they had neglected to pay court to the dying millionaire. Our strategist was not so ill as the doctor supposed, and presently he recovered. Then it was that fortune-hunters begged him to invest their money, urged him to accept loans, and gave him a credit second to none in the city. At first he coyly refused these flattering testimonials, but was gradually a woodchuck that had growed up fond, clover for a considerable time, has just failed-for an enormous sum.

> No More Escapes. After filling the post of prison warden for ten years Bruschini adopted the profession of grave digger.

"What led you to change your occupation?" inquired a friend.

"The circumstance that in my new to onearth a woodchuck? I hev; it's employment I have no escape to fear."

SECRETARIES REVIEW WORK AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS.

Herbert Wants More Battle Ships and Torpedo Boats - Eckels Tells All About Banks-Lamont Is Pleased with the Condition of the Army.

Affairs of a Nation.

The total number of national banks orzanized since June 20, 1863, has been 5,023. There were in active operation on Oct. 31 3,715, with an authorized capital stock of \$664,136,915, represented by 285,190 shareholders; average number of shares, 2,136; shareholders, 77. The total amount of their circulation outstanding was \$213,887,630, of which amount \$190,180,961 was secured by United States bonds, and \$23,706,669 by lawful money deposited with the Treasurer of the United States.

During the report year forty-three banks were organized, located in twenty different States, with an aggregate capital stock of \$4,890,000. Of these new banks twenty-eight, with a capital stock SECRETARY HERBERT'S DESIRE. of \$2,530,000, are in the northern and northwestern section of the country, and Two More Battleships and Twelve fifteen, with a capital stock aggregating \$2,360,000, in the south and southwest. yearly average.

culation secured by bonds and a gross says:

lery regiments is recommended. Four companies is the size command recommended for one officer's control. Increase from 800 to 2,000 yards in effectiveness of small arms is noted. The battalion organization of State militia is commended. For the contemplated increase in force \$1,200,000 will be required annually. Over \$5,000,000 reduction of expense for regular force, per year, has been effeeted. It is said the staff force of officers is too great, nearly one-third of the \$5,069,570 of salaries going to this class. The present chiefs of bureaus in the staff organization of the army are pronounced capable and efficient men, in every way worthy of the responsible places they occupy and zealous in the faithful performance of duty. But a no answers. Then he met with reverses plan to insure retirement after a term of and disappointments, and it was many years, and promotion of next in rank, is recommended. The relations between regular army and State militia are most gratifying. At need, over 100,000 volunteers, equipped for active duty in the highest sense, could be placed in the field within forty-eight hours. Considerable ristown, Pa., recently, he met a ering the questions of seacoast defenses, fancy. They became so friendly that dynamite guns, etc., and river and harbor | the lecturer told her the sad story of improvements and numerous other subjects are considered.

Torpedo Boats Recommended. Secretary Herbert, in his annual recruisers, and speaks in high praise of the | tal of maids. There was a net increase during the workmanship on the new navy. He also year of \$10,779,597 in the amount of cir- outlines the work under contract, and

"An inspection of the relative strength of navies will furnish, it is believed, all Of the 3,715 banks in active operation, the argument now needed for the con-2,901, with a capital stock of \$536,725,- tinuation of the building program herethat was his brother, lived 'n' died capital stock of \$126,848,950, in the south mored cruisers or of gunboats, but we are and southwest. There are 2.611 national lamentably deficient in torpedoboats, and banks located east of the Mississippi we certainly need more battleships, An River, with a capital stock of \$527,612,- inspection of the building programs of 792, and 1,104 west of the Mississippi, other nations will demonstrate that the lessons taught at Yalu and Wei Hai Wei "So whilst the crick wuz gittin' out tem by reason of the expiration of their experts throughout the world in the effi-

CALLING HIM OFF.



Uncle Sam-Hi, there! Get out of that! You're getting altogether too near my back yard!-Chicago Tribune.

and circulation of \$1,152,000.

are recommended: "1. That the Comptroller be empowered to remove officers of national banks for violations of law and mismanage-

employes be restricted and made only upon the approval of the board of directors. "3. That the assistant cashier, in the nothin' under the boulder."-Detroit absence of the cashier, be authorized to sign the circulating notes of the bank

> and reports of condition. to take an oath of office and execute a

> "6. That upon a day in each year, to be designated by the Comptroller, the directors of national banks shall be required to make an examination of the affairs of the banks and submit to the

> value of the bonds deposited by them with the Treasurer of the United States to secure such notes.

"S. That the semi-annual tax on circu-

LAMONT'S REPORT.

Some Changes Recommended - Matters Are Generally Satisfactory.

to be 20,584 of all arms. The new law regulating enlistments has greatly improved the personnel of the army, and has not impeded required enlistments. Of 7,780 men recruited during the year 5,518 were native born. The strictness of the examinations, physical, mental and moral, may be measured from the fact that 38,249 applicants were rejected. The addition of two companies to each of twenty-five infantry regiments, and two foet batteries to each of five artil- Bishop of Cagliari.

I'm giad 's you be that the fence is off like the crack o' doom 'n' busted | year ending Oct. 31, 1896, the corporate | "I respectfully recommend the conexistence of twenty-eight banks will ex- struction of two battleships and at least pire. In the succeeding ten years, from twelve torpedoboats. The gratifying 1896 to 1905, the corporate existence of progress made by our manufacturers of Receivers for thirty-six banks have The price per ton for the gunboats Maaside, surprised, and thereby gave him had sailed clean through the butt'ry been appointed during the year. The chias and Castine, contracted for in an opening to the most coveted corner, | winder-'n' he wuz jest narvin' himself | aggregate capital stock of these banks | April, 1890, was \$302,80, the average "She looked kind o' onsettled, what capital stock of \$450,000, were reported just let out to contract is \$222.84 per heat until ready for use. last year as being in voluntary liquida- ton, a saving of \$80.52 per ton, or 26 per tion, and nine, with a capital stock of cent. of the price of the ships. The price of butter that has been melted. It al- but then it is usually very thick and \$2,750,000, were of the number of banks of the Eriesson, contracted for in Octowhich closed their doors in 1893 and sub- ber, 1891, was 8945.83 per ton. The sequently resumed business, but through average price of the six torpedoboats concontinued business depression and the tracted for in 1895 is \$766.58 per ton, a dians and those who are accustomed ticed in the tail of thoroughbred horses. slow character of their assets were un- reduction of \$179.25 per ton, or of about to its use. It is conveyed to market in In some horses there is a tendency to able to meet their obligations, and were | 20 per cent. in the price of the boats. | earthen jars. These prices compare very favorably The following amendments to the law with the prices for similar work done

Secretary Herbert devotes considerable space to consideration of armor plates, ordnance, projectiles, submarine boats, automobile torpedoes, etc., and to im-"2. That loans to executive officers and provements in the business methods of be such wholesale destruction. There horse is never a bad one. In other in-

In Chinese Villages.

of shivering rice, but far oftener the which would give a total of five million "4. That some class of public officers | villagers came to see us in our house | eggs destroyed in one locality. be empowered to administer the general boat-men, women, babies, dogs and oaths required by the national-bank act. all. Always some little side canal, the "5. That bank examiners be required offshoot of the main waterway, was the only street between or before the village houses. There was always the purchases of old helmets of the cavalry towpath, but the best route was by a regiments stationed along the eastern manded, "Guess who it is." Nothing second path leading behind the houses. frontier of France. It is supposed very dreadful for Charley in this, you By following that we passed through these purchases are made on account think; but then, you don't know that the farms and yards. We saw the men of the German cavalry scouts, as, in | Charley was engaged to two girls, and, and women thrashing the rice by beat-"7. That the Comptroller be author- ing a log with handfulls of it to scatter was the chagrin of numerous acquaint- | ized to issue circulating notes to the par | the kernels on the ground. We saw the | hiding their uniform, it would be easy | uation very embarrassing. A wrong farmers turning the soil over and for them to reconnoiter positions quietbreaking it up laboriously, or punching | Iy. holes in the thick clay, dropping seeds lating notes of national banks be reduced in them, and then smearing the holes to one-fourth of 1 per cent, per annuin." over with a rake. We went into the inner courts of the better houses, and noted how the men, and even the tiniest baby boys, thrust themselves forward | tontation is much worse." to greet us, while the women and girls slank behind or merely peeped through In his annual report Secretary Lamont | the doorways and open windows the shows the effective strength of the army latter being Elizabethan contrivances, framed for little panes of oiled paper or the enamelled inner coating of seashells. White goats, wolfish dogs, common-sense chickens, hump-backed cows and nose-led buffaloes make up the an- engaged to him since last evening.imal life that is so painfully missing in | Life. Japan and so abundant in China.

The Luciferians, an early Christian

FICTION OUTDONE. A Girl's Sudden Fancy for an Old Man

at a Reception. Sometimes you meet with such stories as that of Col. James P. Stanford in a play or a novel which unfolds what is seemingly an utterly improbable train of events. To Col. Stanford it longs in 1:09, and he expects her to do seems like a terrible nightmare; so much so, indeed; that he is said to be ruined in body and mind. He left his young bride of two months some fortyfive years ago to go to South America. News soon came saying that she was dead. He wrote many letters and got years before he saw the United States again. For the last twenty years he has been a lecturer on the lecture courses of the towns and smaller cities.

At a reception given to him in Morspace is filled by the Secretary in consid- | young woman to whom he took a great his early life. He had meant no more than to touch a girl's sentiment with the story of a young bride's death. But she supplied it with a sequel as astonishing and calmly cruel as the climax of one of Thomas Hardy's short stories, The number of banks organized during port, shows the progress made during the and the mere telling of which would the year was less than 30 per cent, of the year in the construction of Government | wring the heart of the least sentimen-

"Isn't it strange?" she said. "My grandfather's name was the same as yours, and he left his bride to go to South America. But he, and not his bride, died."

that wuz found on him wuz a silver 832, are in the northern and northeast- tofore indicated by the action of Congress. lost father knew the truth. He led the wind is all right. What do you think of thre'pence 'n' a snuffbox. Jim Bascom, ern half of the country, and 814, with a We are not in want of ordinary unar- young woman to one side and asked: her back?"

"Is your grandmother still living?" yet quite unconscious of what the answer meant to the charming, gray-haired man before her, said that his wife The number of banks leaving the sys- have tended to confirm the belief of naval | was dead he nearly swooned, and since that moment his friends speak of him | are going to be a big thing. You know as being no longer himself. He has we have been married just a year. I met the daughter who was unborn expect Bessie to do wonders. There's when he left his young wife, and who a newcomer going to be here that we is now a mature matron of 44, but are looking for with much interest. You seems to be unable to recover from the | must really come out and see our first shock of the news about his wife-of event." the thought that she had lived so many years after he supposed that she was dead. He has cancelled all of his lecture engagements, and will retire to his home in Wheaton, Ill., and his daughter and granddaughter will do all in their power to make his last days comfortable.

Turtle-Egg Butter.

The Amazon and its affluents abound in turtles, says Dr. Kidder, in his "Brazil and the Brazilians." In September | the croup, the direction of which it foland October, the months when the eggs lows. When this is horizontal the tail are deposited, the streams will be fairly is gracefully carried, especially when speckled with turtles, paddling their the horse is moving. With powerful, clumsy carcasses up to their native good-shaped horses it is often carried sandbar. They lay from eighty to one | upward, or even curved over the back, hundred and twenty eggs every other especially when the horse is lively. year. Turtle egg butter is a substance | The health and strength of the animals peculiar to this part of the globe.

their numbers that the noise of their | which it is carried. To some extent shells striking against each other in also it affords an indication of the rush is said to be sometimes heard at horse's disposition. long distances. Their work commences | A fidgety horse usually has the tail, at dusk and ends with the following like the ears, always in motion; when

889 banks will expire. The number of steel and our shipbuilders and the com- fresh the eggs are thrown into wooden can searcely be any doubt also that. banks leaving the system during the year petition among them has enabled the de- canoes or other large vessels and broken like the tail of birds, it assists in the through voluntary liquidation was fifty- partment during the last two years to con- with sticks and stamped fine with the horse's movements, as when the animal one, having a capital stock of \$6,093,100 | tract for gunboats and torpedoboats at a feet. Water is then poured on, and is galloping in a small circle, or rapvery large reduction from former prices. the whole is exposed to the rays of the idly turning round a corner, it is curved sun. The heat brings the oily matter of | to the inner side. the eggs to the surface, from which it ! close to the cracker-barrel. It was a to go in 'n' pick up his wife when, lo was \$5,235,020 and their circulation \$1,- price of the three gunboats contracted for is skimmed with cuyas and shells. Af-003,402. Of these banks, two, with a in January, 1894, and of the six others | ter this it is subjected to a moderate | and often grows to such a length that

for the manufacture of this mauteigo. The government now regulates the turthe villages, walking between the fields quires about twenty-five hundred eggs,

> Looking Forward to Conflict. time past there have been mysterious | sort. A pair of soft little hands covcase of hostilities, wearing the French | for the life of him, couldn't decide helmet, and with their great cloaks

Worst of All. "There's nothing worse in this world than ostentation," said Garraway. "Oh, yes, there is," said Gorse. "Bos-

"What is Bostontation?" "Ostentation plus Boston," said Garraway.-Harper's Bazar.

Short Acquaintance. Flora (at the seaside)-What sort of a fellow is he, anyway? Julia-I don't know. I've only been

Crane that Lifts 150 Tons. sect, took their name from Lucifer, the the world is at the Krupp iron works. old, almost all the money in the house

MIXED FILLY WITH WIFE.

Talk of a Racing Man Who Bragged About Both, . .

A certain Houston racing man was married some months ago. He also is the proud possessor of a fine 2-year-old filly that has made five and a half furbetter at the next races. He has named the filly after his wife and both of them are dear to his heart. A Houston Post man, who ran across him, found him quite willing to talk.

"Yes," he said, "I am the happlest man in Texas. Bessie and I are keeping house now, and getting quite well settled down. That filly of mine is going to do wonders yet. Bessie takes as much interest in her as I do. You know, I have named her for my wife. She's a thoroughbred. I tell you, it's a fine sight to see her trotting around at home." "Who, the filly?"

"No, my wife. She's going to bet welve dozen pairs of kid gloves on Bessie next time she goes in. I have but one objection to her. She goes with her head on one side, and, of course, cross-legged, and tears off her shoes."

"Your w-w-wife?"

"No; what's the matter with you? The filly. It pleases me very much to have my friends inquire about Bessie. She is getting to be quite a favorite. I had hard work to get her, too. She trots double without a break." "The filly, you mean?"

"No, my wife. I took Bessie out driving with the filly yesterday. Bessie's a daisy. She's a little high in one shoul-A few direct questions and the long | der and a trifle stiff in one leg, but her

"Really, I-I-I never had the pleas-When the young woman, who was as | ure of meeting your wife, but I have no

"What are you talking about? I mean the filly. The races come off fust on the anniversary of our marriage. The races

"I-I-I-really, it would be indellcate. I-you must really excuse me-I never saw anything of the kind: I-

"Oh, there's nothing wrong about horse races. They're fine sport. So long, now. I've got to go and take Bessie out and sweat her a little."

A Herse's Tail.

In well-formed horses the tall should be strong at the root, rising high from are, according to popular notions, indi-When the turtles come to the sard cated by the resistence the tail offers to beaches to lay their eggs, so great are | manual interference and by the way in

about to kick, the tail is drawn down-During the daytime the inhabitants | ward between the legs; when the anicollect these eggs and pile them up in | mal is fatigued or exhausted then it is heaps, like the stacks of cannon balls | drooping and frequently tremulous: seen at a navy yard. These heaps are and with some horses, when galloping, often twenty feet in diameter, and of is it swung about in a circular manner a corresponding height. While yet or lashed from side to side. There

With well-bred horses the hair of the it reaches the ground; coarse-bred When clarified, it has the appearance | horses may also have the hair long, ways retains the taste of fish oil, but is strong, and more or less frizzly, though much prized for seasoning by the In- soft curly hair may occasionally be noshedding of the tail hair (this, like that In earlier times it was estimated that of the mane, tail, forelock, fetlocks and nearly two hundred and fifty millions | some other parts, is permanent, and not of turde eggs were annually destroyed | shed at certain seasons, as in other regions of the body); the horse is then said to be "rat-tailed," and there is a tle egg harvest, so that there may not | popular saying to the effect that such a are some extensive beaches which yield | stances the tail hair falls off except at two thousand pots of oil annually. | the end of the dock, where it forms a Mr. Weldon and I often went into | Each pot contains five gallons, and re- tuft, and the horse is then "cow-tailed" or "mule-tailed."

> Entirely Satisfactory. ----In a late social encounter Charley covered himself with glory. He was caught It has been noticed that for some | napping on a porch of the summer reered his eyes, and a sweet voice comwhich voice it was, which made the sitguess would lead to complications awful to think of. But a happy thought inspired Charley, and he announced, "It's the dearest, sweetest little girl in all the world." "Oh, you lovely boy!" gurgled the satisfied one, as she removed her hands. And now Charley thinks of applying for a foreign ministry, feeting that his talents would be wasted in any other than a diplomatic field. _

> > Next Best Thing. Willie E. Kent-Can't you let me off this afternoon to attend my grandma's

funeral? Staidto Home-Not very well; but you can slip out now and then to look at the score.-New York World.

It is said that the largest crane in | When the first baby is about a year It lifts and turns a weight of 150 tons, may be found in the baby's bank.